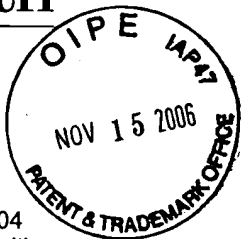


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November 15, 2006

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: National Phase Application No. 10/589,436
For: *Stock Shape for Machining and Production Process
Thereof*
Filing Date: August 15, 2006
Inventor(s): NISHIHATA, et al
Our Ref.: 358275.30011

Dear Sir/Madam:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified National Phase application.

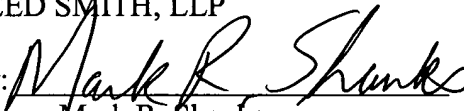
1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO 1449;
3. Fourteen (14) cited references; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date and returned to our courier.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH, LLP

By:


Mark R. Shanks
Reg. No. 33,781

MRS:sg
Enclosures

LONDON ♦ NEW YORK ♦ LOS ANGELES ♦ SAN FRANCISCO ♦ WASHINGTON, D.C. ♦ PHILADELPHIA ♦ PITTSBURGH ♦ OAKLAND
PRINCETON ♦ FALLS CHURCH ♦ WILMINGTON ♦ NEWARK ♦ MIDLANDS, U.K. ♦ CENTURY CITY ♦ RICHMOND ♦ LEESBURG

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FRXL1B-450485.1-MRSHANKS 11/14/06 4:12 PM



Att'y Dkt. No.: 358275.30011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: NISHIHATA, et al.

Art Unit:

Appl. Serial No.: 10/589,436

Examiner:

Filing Date: August 15, 2006

Att'y. Docket: 358275.30011

Title: Stock Shape for Machining and Production Process Thereof

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present patent application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will review art of record in all 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority documents.

☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

☐a 2. The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

☐a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☐c. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants hereby petition that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐b. I hereby certify that no item of information on this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☒4. Relevance of the non-English language documents is discussed in the present specification. See page 5, of the specification of the present application.

☐5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. ☐ A copy of a search report issued in the foreign application is attached. ☐ An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. M.P.E.P. § 609 (A)(3).

☐6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) ☐ is attached hereto or ☐ appears below.

- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).
- ☒ 9. Other: Documents were cited in the International Search Report.


It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. **50-0622**

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP

By:


Mark R. Shanks
Reg. No. 33,781

Date:

11/15/06

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Suite 1400
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-641-4200

32256

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Form PTO 1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant	ATTY. DOCKET NUMBER	SERIAL NUMBER
	358275.30011	10/589,436
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	August 15, 2006	

U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	6,545,081B1	Apr. 8, 2003	Nishihata, et al.			Dec. 8, 1999
	2004/0082205 A1	Apr. 29, 2004	Nishihata, et la.			Mar. 27, 2002

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	2002-531660	Sep. 24, 2002	Japan				X
	WO 00/34369	Jun. 15, 2000	PCT			X	
	WO 02/082592A1	Oct. 17, 2002	PCT			Abstract	
	EP 1 376 782 A1	Jan. 2, 2004	EP			X	
	09-087418	Mar. 31, 1997	Japan			Abstract	
	2000-212453	Aug. 2, 2000	Japan			Abstract	
	2002-080720	Mar. 19, 2002	Japan			Abstract	
	07-314520	Dec. 5, 1995	Japan			Abstract	
	2000-017180	Jan 18, 2000	Japan			Abstract	
	11-323131	Nov. 26, 1999	Japan			Abstract	
	2002-121402	Apr. 23, 2002	Japan			Abstract	

Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	International Search Report
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<i>EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant</i>	

PTO1449